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Letter dated 7 May 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chair of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the letter dated 5 May 2012 signed by Georges Rebelo Chikoti, Minister for External Relations of the Republic of Angola, on the conclusions of the ninth Special Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, held in Lisbon on 5 May 2012 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Ismael A. Gaspar **Martins**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 7 May 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I write to you in my capacity as President of the Council of Ministers of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), and submit herewith the conclusions of the ninth Special Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Organization on the situation in Guinea-Bissau, held today in Lisbon, I must recall the special interest of the Community in this issue, as Guinea-Bissau is one of its members, and as such, CPLP maintains an inclusive approach and reiterates its total availability and interest in being part of the solution to the crisis in Guinea-Bissau, in close cooperation with the United Nations, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), as you will be able to verify in the conclusions below.

The international community strongly condemned the coup d'état in Guinea-Bissau from the very beginning, demanding the restoration of the constitutional order and the completion of the electoral process in that country, while reaffirming the principle of zero tolerance that is enshrined in a clear and unambiguous manner in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and other documents of the Organization. It is worthwhile emphasizing that the end of the imprisonment of the interim President and the Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau, Raimundo Pereira and Carlos Gomes Jr., respectively, came about as a result of international pressure.

Despite the international community's demand for the restoration of order, after almost one month, an illegal and unconstitutional situation persists in that country, which is undoubtedly an affront to the people of Guinea-Bissau and the international community, and it should not be tolerated.

Zero tolerance cannot be a mere slogan; it has to be translated into a demand for the effective reinstatement of the rule of law. History shows us that in the last 14 years, Guinea-Bissau has been the object of constant coups d'état perpetrated by the military, and it is thus urgent to put an end to this practice.

As for the political solution to the situation, it seems essential to stress, given the high political instability in this region, that it is particularly important to ensure a solution of the utmost rigour regarding the restoration of democratic and constitutional legality. In this regard, CPLP reaffirms its readiness and commitment to resolving the issue in Guinea-Bissau and expresses its desire to strengthen its relationship with the United Nations, the African Union, ECOWAS and the Member States of the subregion of West Africa.

The risks of any unilateral action are evident at a time when Guinea-Bissau needs the support of all those who can contribute with their specific experiences, resources and cultural affinities.

Thus, CPLP asks you to urgently establish a "crisis contact group on Guinea-Bissau" under the coordination of the United Nations, mentioned in the last report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Guinea-Bissau (see S/2012/280, para. 25), with the participation of representatives of the African Union, ECOWAS and CPLP.

It is the responsibility of the international community to ensure the integrated treatment of the security situation in Guinea-Bissau and the subregion, as well as to

deal with dangerous destabilizing factors, including drug trafficking, arms trafficking and other organized criminal activities.

I request your greatest attention to the prevailing situation in Guinea-Bissau and to the need for measures to prevent the worsening of the humanitarian crisis plaguing the country, particularly with the emergence of displaced persons, refugees and the risk of epidemics.

Georges **Rebelo Pinto Chikoti**
Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola
President of the Council of Ministers of the Community of
Portuguese-speaking Countries